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With this response, Applicants are submitting a Rule 1.131 affidavit eliminating Long III et al. as a reference. The remaining cited art fails to disclose all of the limitations of Claims 25-30. Thus, Claims 25-30 are not taught or suggested by the cited art.

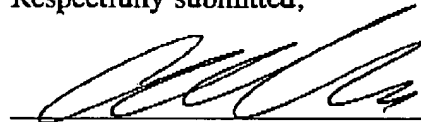
If the Examiner relies on personal knowledge that the apparatus of the present invention is obvious, Applicants respectfully request support for this assertion in the form of an affidavit that shall be subject to contradiction or explanation by the affidavits of the Applicant and other persons under 37 C.F.R. 1.104 (d)(2).

Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated December 4, 2002 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 25-30 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

If for some reason a fee needs to be paid, please charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for the fees which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure